

V. REMARKS

Entry of the Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because the Amendment: a) places the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; b) does not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration because the Amendment amplifies issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; and c) places the application in better form for appeal, should an Appeal be necessary. The Amendment is necessary and was not earlier presented because it is made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. The amendments to the subject claims do not incorporate any new subject matter into the claims. Thus, entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 5, 10, 16 and 38 are rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Uchida (U.S. Patent No. 6,343,161) and Ahuja (U.S. Patent No. 6,157,529) in view of Bowron (U.S. Patent No. 7,374,258). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Uchida teaches an image processing device that includes a plurality of distinct image frame memories and a control device. The plurality of distinct image frame memories is operatively connected to a single image processor for effecting image processing by the image processor by concurrently and repeatedly executing reading, image processing and outputting functions for input image data. The control device external to said single image processor writes original test data to and reads image data written from each of said memories. The control device compares said original written test data with said read image data written from said memories to determine whether each of said memories is operating in a normal manner. If at least one of said memories is judged abnormal due to the disagreement in the compared data, said control device switches said reading, image processing and outputting functions previously performed by said now abnormal memory to the remaining memories, which concurrently execute the functions in order to effect image processing by the image processor. The control device transmits information of the abnormal memory

to an operator and informs the operator of possible image sizes which can still be processed by said remaining memories.

Ahuja discloses a surge protector for protecting electrical equipment connected on its load side from spurious or excessive transient voltages or surges or both on an electrical line above a predetermined value, on its line side or its hot side. A fuse is used to monitor a fault current flowing into a surge voltage suppression device, due to an excessive voltage across the suppression device. Thus, the fuse blows resulting from an over-current condition and it disables and opens a solid state switch or an electro mechanical switch mounted in series in the line thus protecting the secondary or the load side from over-voltages and transient surges on the electrical line.

Bowron is directed to a modular automated kiosk that has a cabinet, a face frame releasably securable to the cabinet, a plurality of cross members secured to the face frame and a plurality of hardware components releasably secured to the cross members. The hardware components may be sized and configured such that they project substantially directly inward into the cabinet when the face frame is secured to the cabinet.

Amended claim 5 now recites:

An electrically-grounded gaming machine comprising:

a display device;

a display control device for controlling the display device to display an image relating to a game;

an image control device having the display control device;

an image state keeping device for monitoring a signal of an image fed from the display control device, for detecting whether the signal is in a normal state thereby rendering the image as a normal image or an abnormal state thereby rendering the image as an abnormal image being different from the normal image and for controlling the display device such that when the image state keeping device detects

that the signal is in the abnormal state, the display device is controlled to display the image as the normal image;

- a power source feeding device; and

- a power source relay device for relaying power fed from the power source feeding device so as to independently supply the power to the image control device, the image state keeping device and the display device,

- wherein, if the power source relay device fails to feed the relayed power to the display device while the power source feeding device remains operative, the power source relay device is operative to feed the relayed power to the image control device and the image state keeping device,

- wherein the image control device is built in and connected to an upper portion of the electrically-grounded gaming machine, and

- wherein the upper portion is geometrically apart from a lower portion of the electrically-grounded gaming machine and the lower portion is exposed to an influence of static electricity caused by a physical contact by a player.

Amended claim 10 now recites:

A display device apparatus for an electrically-grounded gaming machine comprising:

- a display device;

- a display control device for controlling the display device to display an image relating to a game;

- an image control device having the display control device;

- an image state keeping device for monitoring a signal of an image fed from the display control device, for detecting whether the signal is in a normal state thereby rendering the image as a normal image or an abnormal state thereby rendering the image as an abnormal image being different from the normal image and for controlling the display device such that when the image state keeping device detects that the signal is in the abnormal state, the display device is controlled to display the image as the normal image;

a power source feeding device; and

a power source relay device for relaying power fed from the power source feeding device to independently supply the power to the display device, the image state keeping device and the image control device

wherein, if the power source relay device fails to feed the relayed power to the display device while the power source feeding device remains operative, the power source relay device is operative to feed the relayed power to the image control device and the image state keeping device,

wherein the image control device is built in and connected to an upper portion of the electrically-grounded gaming machine, and

wherein the upper portion is geometrically apart from a lower portion of the electrically-grounded gaming machine and the lower portion is exposed to an influence of static electricity caused by a physical contact by a player.

Amended claim 16 now recites:

A display device apparatus for an electrically-grounded gaming machine comprising:

a display device;

a display control device for controlling the display device to display an image relating to a game;

an image control device having the display control device;

an image state keeping device for monitoring a signal of an image fed from the display control device, for detecting whether the signal is in a normal state thereby rendering the image as a normal image or an abnormal state thereby rendering the image as an abnormal image being different from the normal image and for controlling the display device such that when the image state keeping device detects that the signal is in the abnormal state, the display device is controlled to display the image as the normal image; and

a power source feeding device for feeding power to the display device, the image state keeping device and the image control device independently from each other,

wherein, if the power source feeding device fails to feed power to the display device while the power source feeding device remains operative, the power source feeding device is operative to feed power to the image control device and the image state keeping device,

wherein the image control device is built in and connected to an upper portion of the electrically-grounded gaming machine, and

wherein the upper portion is geometrically apart from a lower portion of the electrically-grounded gaming machine and the lower portion is exposed to an influence of static electricity caused by a physical contact by a player.

Claims 5, 10 and 16 now recite the feature: wherein the upper portion is geometrically apart from a lower portion of the electrically-grounded gaming machine and the lower portion is exposed to an influence of static electricity caused by a physical contact by a player. This feature added to claims 5, 10 and 16 is supported by the specification in the paragraph [0129] of the application of this invention published by the USPTO stating:

[0129] On the other hand, the image signal control unit thus far described is built in the upper portion of the gaming machine under consideration. Therefore, the image signal control unit is not in the lower portion, as might be contacted by the player, of the gaming machine but in the upper portion of the gaming machine so that it is hardly influenced by the static electricity, as might otherwise be generated by the contact with the player.

In amended claims 5, 10 and 16, the upper portion of the electrically grounded gaming machine is distinguished from the lower portion that is exposed to the influence of static electricity caused by the physical contact by the player. In contrast, the newly cited prior art document Bowron merely teaches that the computer 34 and

the power supply 62 are built in the upper portion of a gaming cabinet. Bowron fails to teach or suggest the motivation to select the upper portion.

As now recited in amended claim 5, 10 and 16, the image control device is built in and connected to an upper portion of the electrically-grounded gaming machine such that the image control device is disposed on the upper portion where the image control device is protected from the adverse effect of static electricity caused by the physical contact by the player.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of claim 5, 10 and 16 as amended and discussed above. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art could not combine the features of the applied art to arrive at the claimed invention because the applied art is devoid of all the features of the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claims 5, 10 and 16 are allowable over the applied art.

Claim 38 depends from claim 5 and includes all of the features of claim 5. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claim is allowable at least for the reasons claim 5 is allowable as well as for the features it recites.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 7 and 39-41 are rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Uchida (U.S. Patent No. 6,343,161) and Ahuja (U.S. Patent No. 6,157,529) in view of Bowron (U.S. Patent No. 7,374,258) and further in view of Loose et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,517,433). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Loose reveals a spinning reel slot machine that includes a plurality of mechanical rotatable reels and a video display. The plurality of mechanical rotatable reels, in response to a wager, are rotated and stopped to randomly place symbols on the reels in visual association with a display area. The video display provides a video image overlaying the reels with the video image interacting with the symbols on the

reels. The video display is a flat panel transmissive display, in the form of a liquid crystal display, positioned in front of the reels.

Claim 7, 39 and 40 depend from claim 5 and includes all of the features of claim 5. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 5 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Claim 41 depends from claim 10 and includes all of the features of claim 10. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claim is allowable at least for the reasons claim 10 is allowable as well as for the features it recites.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance over the prior art of record. Therefore, this Response is believed to be a complete response to the outstanding Office Action. Further, Applicants assert that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicants hereby reserve the right to set forth further arguments and remarks supporting the patentability of their claims, including the separate patentability of the dependent claims not explicitly addressed herein, in future papers.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same,

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(80331-0055)

the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

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